

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 548**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

**Forest cover and wildlife protection in Odisha**

548. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of forest cover in Odisha;
- (b) the number of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in the State;
- (c) the measures taken to protect endangered species such as Olive Ridley turtles;
- (d) the funds allocated for conservation projects in the State during the last three years;
- and
- (e) whether any new initiatives are planned to reduce industrial pollution in the State?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory. As per the latest ISFR 2023, Odisha has a forest cover of 52,433.56 square kilometer.

(b) to (d) There are two National Parks and nineteen Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State of Odisha. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) “Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH)” for conservation and management of Protected Areas, wildlife conservation outside Protected Areas, and recovery of critically endangered species. Marine turtles are among the 24 critically endangered species supported under this scheme

The Ministry, through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), supports tiger-range States under Project Tiger. The details of funds allocated for conservation projects in the State of Odisha during the last three years is as follows:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH)	Project Tiger (PT)	Project Elephant (PE)
2022–23	967.49	946.82	—
2023–24	1005.08	750.16	262.43

2024-25	1108.46	760.77	158.81
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(e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notifies “Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries” under Schedule-I of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986. The general standards as notified under Schedule-VI of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986 are applicable where specific standards are not available for the industrial sectors. The concerned SPCB/PCC ensures the implementation of said standards. CPCB has directed all 17 categories of high pollution potential industries and common waste treatment facilities to install Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for strengthening monitoring mechanism and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism and constant vigil on pollution levels. Real-time values of environmental pollutants of trade effluent and emissions generated through OCEMS are transmitted online to CPCB and concerned SPCB/PCC on 24x7 basis. Central software processes the data and in case of value of pollutant parameter exceeds prescribed environmental norms, an automatic SMS alert is generated and sent to industrial unit, SPCB and CPCB, so that corrective measures can be taken by the industry immediately and appropriate action can be taken by concerned SPCB/PCC/CPCB.

Further, CPCB classifies various sectors/activities under colour coded categories based on their pollution potential. During 2025, CPCB has revised the classification methodology to classify sectors into Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories. The Classification-2025 includes incentive mechanism for the units in any sector that adopt environment friendly practices such as use of 100% cleaner fuel/renewal energy, etc. and ensuring continuous compliance. This will result in better environmental performance and reduce industrial pollution.

The State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/ PCCs) impose emission standards on the industries for granting prior consent (Consent to Establish/ Consent to Operate), as per the provisions of the Air Act, 1981, apart from the Water Act, 1974.

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